

Prayers of the Faithful  
Ash Wednesday

**Presider:** God of mercy, we enter this holy season of Lent eager for you to wash us of our guilt and cleanse us from our sin and self-centeredness. We earnestly implore you to hear our prayers and help us to open ourselves to your purification.

**Lector:** For the church, as we enter this season of Lent, a season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, may we grow in grace, ever attending to the poor and marginalized, championing their quest for justice and human dignity, God of mercy, we pray...**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the prosperous nations of the world, may they initiate a generous sharing of their abundant resources to alleviate destitution, famine and starvation, God of mercy, we pray...**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For our nation that this season of Lent might move us to greater concern for refugees and immigrants, the homeless, the unemployed, and those in need, God of mercy, we pray...**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For our St. Ignatius parish community, with God's grace may we grow ever more fully into ambassadors for Christ, God of mercy, we pray...**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For Catechumens and Candidates in our parish, diocese and Church, may we support them by the authenticity of our lives as we journey together to Easter, God of mercy, we pray...**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For our beloved dead, may they, no longer fast, but now feast at the banquet of the Lord, God of mercy, we pray...**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Presider:** God of mercy during these 40 days of Lent create in us a clean, non-hypocritical heart, renewing in us a steadfast spirit, in and through Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**